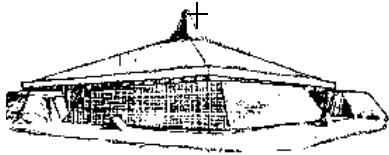


# THE BALLINCOLLIG PARISHIONER



**SUNDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2001**

**TWENTY - SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*The favour of God is given especially to those who know their need of him, to those who know his favour is freely given, not taken by force. It is for those who freely give without thought of return*

## *CREATING SPACE FOR GOD*

Many people today live lives of tension and stress. Work is often pressured and the daily round of commuting can take a heavy toll on people's energy and enjoyment of life. In some cases there may be marital or family problems which add their own weight to the burden.

Against that background it can be almost impossible for people to pray or to be able to have a spiritual life that involves any kind of encounter with God. At the same time, the pressure of those problems makes a real inner life an even greater necessity if the person is not to become burned - out or to be reduced to the level of a soulless functionary.

What about the inner self? What about nourishing the hungry soul that needs sustenance? We all need to build up our inner resources. The inner world is more real than the mad rush, the competitiveness and the pressure of what we sometimes unthinkingly call "the real world".

Can we do any thing about this? Yes. We can create a quiet time and place for ourselves each day. It is a matter of creating it; it won't come by itself. After all, we make time for meals, don't we? It could be a matter of sitting in a comfortable chair in a quiet room at home (for example, a bedroom), or walking slowly in a park, or going to a church, and then gradually and gently calming down.

Relax your body first, then let your emotions and your mind calm down. Spend most of the time just calming down. That includes recognising without anxiety the sources of your tension and just letting them be. This is not a time for solving problems - that comes afterwards. Leave aside books, words and even thoughts as far as you can. (Keep a pen and paper nearby so that if you think, "I must phone Tom" you just make a note of it and set it aside. That way it won't continue to distract you.)

Recognise that you are in the presence of God: you don't have to put yourself in it, you couldn't not be in it. Try to come to this quiet time without an agenda, or even expectations. Just be quiet, be receptive. (This isn't complicated, but it's not easy.) Let God lead you in his own way, perhaps enabling you to become aware of yourself, to discover what may have been staring you in the face for years. The challenge is to learn to listen to what God says in silence, that silence which is not simply the absence of noise, but an inner stillness.

Be prepared for surprises. The first may be that you like this and want to make more time for it. Another could be that you learn to appreciate the present moment. The present, the here and now, is a present from God. It is in the present that we begin to experience the presence of GOD in a way that is intuitive and indirect but always gentle, freeing and sometimes even funny.

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

### **PRIEST**

To God, who defends the poor and hears their cry, let us bring our prayers.

### **READER**

For those called to leadership in the Church that they may lead with humility,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For people who are leaders in all areas of life, that they may be free from arrogance or condescension.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, that they may receive the same welcome on earth as is promised them in heaven.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For teachers and students returning to school these autumn days, that they may have the gifts of wisdom and understanding.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For all the faithful departed that they may reach their heavenly home, in the city of the living God.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

### **PRIEST:**

Father of the orphan, defender of the poor, hear our prayers and bring us to repentance, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*Today The Parishioner takes a new format. This follows the kind sponsorship of paper from local business.*

## **GOD ACCEPTS THE HOMAGE OF THE HUMBLE (FIRST READING)**

**THE LESSON THAT WE SPEND OUR LIVES LEARNING IS THAT OUR HOPE LIES ONLY IN GOD, WE LIKE TO THINK THAT OUR GIFTS OR OUR ACHIEVEMENTS OR OUR GOOD STANDING MIGHT SOMEHOW IMPRESS THE GOD WHO MADE THEM ALL OUT OF NOTHING.**

*In your goodness, O God, you prepared a home for the poor.*

Visit Our Website: [www.ballincolligparish.ie](http://www.ballincolligparish.ie)

## BAPTISMS



WE WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY  
ALL THOSE WHO WERE BAPTISED RECENTLY :

Jake Ryan Thomas, 24 The Cloisters.  
Liam Josphe O'Leary, Anghera, Longford.  
Daniel Harte, 10 Bridgewater, Carrigrohane.  
Ava Emma Lordan, 56 Woodberry, Greenfields,  
Ballyshoneen.  
James Bullman McCormack 124, Leesdale.  
Jordan Paul Onuzuricke, 2 Ardevin, St Lukes,  
Gardiners Hill, Cork.  
Eimear Maria Gleeson, 4 Innishmore Drive.  
Eoin James O'Callaghan, 31 Carriganarra.  
Erin Jamie McGowan, 18 Commons Grove,  
Dromiskin, Co Louth.  
Karl Anthony Tannian, 49 Manor Hill.  
Joshua Patrick Cotter, The Shop, Innishmore.  
Owen Joseph Nash, 16 The Meadows, Classis Lake  
Stephens Denis Wills, 4 The Paddocks.  
Conor Brendan Morey, 96 The Cloisters, Ballincollig  
Jenna Marie O'Kelly, Wilton.  
Samuel Michael Gilmore, 24 Faen Walk.  
Colin Brian Doyle, 14 The Green, Coolroe  
Meadows.  
Cliona Gene Cassidy, 37 Woodberry, Greenfields.  
David Jordan Barrett, 10 Whitethorn Ave, Inniscarra  
View.  
Magan Marie Angelini - Kerins, 49 Beech Park.  
Joseph James Donovan, 58 The Cloisters,  
Ballincollig.  
Shane Patrick Deady - Buckley, 1 Glendower Court.  
Cian David Kilkenny, 41 Cherry Walk  
Conor James Kilkenny, 41 Cherry Walk, Muskerry  
Estate.

## MARRIAGES



CONGRATULATIONS TO:  
William Burke, West Village, Ballincollig.  
Laura Kim McCarthy, 100, Castle Park.

Stephen O'Keeffe, Windsor Ovens,  
Orla Healy, Windsor, Ovens.

David Alexander Michke, Queensland, Australia,  
Fiona O'Leary, 6 Aylsbury Ave.

Eugene Mark Brown, Dublin Hill.  
Carol Margaret Donovan, 78 Rosewood, Ballincollig.

Angela Healy, Maglin,  
Damian Leonard, Greystones, Co Wicklow.

Daniel Dwyer, Greenfields,  
Susan Mary Power, 9 Ivy Circle, Muskerry Estate.

Edward Noel Kent, 3 Westbourne Park, Magazine Road,  
Elaine Patricia Barry - Murphy, Maglin.

John Paul Bruen, Drumfin, Carrigrohane.  
Ann Mary Buckley, Model Farm Road.

## +

## IN SYMPATHY

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF:

Frank O'Connell, Ballincollig House  
Molly Murphy, Powder Mills  
Daniel Carroll, 129 Rosewood  
Helen Cosgrove, Castle Park  
Patrick Cotter, Leo Murphy Tce  
John Lynch, East Gate  
Bridget Waste, St Mary's Tce, Carrigrohane  
Sean Murphy, Clash Road, Carrigrohane  
Donal Twohig, England  
Joan Weakliam, The Willow.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF

Maureen Desmond, Rock Farm, Carrigrohane  
Sean O'Donovan, Carrigrohane.  
Johnny Madden, South Douglas Rd  
Kath & Fred Nash, Powdermills  
Thomas & Catherine O'Malley, Castlebar  
Dan O'Sullivan, Ovens.  
Jerry Murphy  
Rita Lynch, Green Street  
Leslie Hayden, Bedford, England.  
Andy Buttimer, Kilnaglorry.  
Patrick O'Neill, Cash, Carrigrohane  
John O' Sullivan, Carriganarra  
Con & Eileen Murphy, Macroom &  
Muskerry Estate Ballincollig.

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**FLORAL TRIBUTES,  
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**CREMATION AND  
REPATRIATION ARRANGED**

*For personal attention contact  
Michael or Patricia*

**NOW THAT I AM OLD AND GREY**

Lord, you are my place of safety,  
 The home, where i always feel welcome!  
 You have been in my life  
 As far as my memory goes back.  
 I have learned your name from my mothers lips.  
 Now that I am old and grey,  
 Don't set me aside.  
 'The years as they pass plunder us of one thing  
 after another. 'Horace  
 Thank you for being with me through my life.  
 Don't leave me when my strength is failing.  
 People view me now as a survivor,  
 'Look,' they say, 'Isn't he / she great for his / her years?'  
 Now, give me grace to age well, to feel kindly till the end.  
 I have always told others of the great things you do:  
 Your constant daily care,  
 How i walked in your strength,  
 How you saved me from bitter trouble.

Now that I am looking down 'the arches of the years'  
 'Into the lean and slippared pantaloons 'Shakespeare,  
 Give me time to talk to this new generation,  
 To tell stories to their children of  
 The countless, wondrous deeds,  
 Of your kindness and your love.  
 You will bring me up from the deep of the earth,  
 You will bring me back to life again,  
 Give me greater honour than before,  
 'I will be your God through all your lifetime.  
 Yes I will be with you even when your hair is white with  
 age.  
 I made you and I will care for you.  
 I will carry you along and will be your Saviour.

**TAKE TIME**

**Take time to think:**  
 It is the source of power.

**Take time to play:**  
 It is the secret of perpetual youth.

**Take time to read:**  
 It is the fountain of wisdom.

**Take time to pray:**  
 It is the greatest power on earth.

**Take time to love and be loved:**  
 It is a God given privilege.

**Take time to be friendly:**  
 It is the road to happiness.

**Take time to laugh:**  
 It is the music of the soul.

**Take time to give:**  
 It is too short a day to be selfish.

**Take time to work,**  
 It is the price of success.

**Take time to forgive:**  
 It is the key to heaven.

**Second Week In Ordinary Time**

**2 Sunday Sir 3:17-20, 28-29,Ps 67. Heb 12:18-19,22-24, Lk. 14:1, 7-14, Lect11:900**

Humility is opposed to a pride that shows no respect for others, but tends to dominate, to exercise power for its own sake to be unconcerned for the rights of others. It is a virtue which sees service of others as the meaning of authority.

**3 Monday 1 Thess, 4:13-18.Ps 95,Ik 4:16-30**

Lect 11:288  
 Paul says that physical death is no barrier to sharing in the victory of the risen Lord. We are to encourage one another to prepare in hope for the return of the Lord.

**4 Tuesday 1 Thess 5:1-6,9,11.Ps 26 Ik. 4:31-37**

Lect 11: 291  
 We are children of the day and no longer live as in the night. Speculation about the time and place of death can be useless. We should so live as to be always ready for the coming of the Lord. Affirmation of each other will strengthen us in the faith.

**5 Wednesday Col 1:1-8, Ps 51. Ik 4:38-44**

Lect 11: 293  
 St Paul writes to the Colossians to counteract heretical tendencies. He begins by praising their genuine charity, something that is not based on feelings or mood. The truth of the Gospel is shown by its universal application. The good news must be proclaimed to all places.

**6 Thursday Col 1:9-14. Ps 97, LK. 5:1-11**

Lect 11:295  
 We come to god in prayer to discover his will and to request the courage to carry it out. Gratitude for the gift of salvation should be part of our prayer also.

**7 Friday Col 1:15-20. Ps 99, LK. 5:33-39**

Lect 11: 297  
 "There is a serious obligation to observe Friday as a penitential day. We recommend that each person should choose some form of penence for Fridays, in memory, as was Friday abstinence, of the passion and death of our Lord." *Irish Bishops 1983. Cf. Liturgical Note 12*

**8 Saturday Mic. 5:14 or Rom. 8:28-30. Ps 12 Mt. 1:1-6, 18-23**

Lect 11: 1180  
 We celebrate the Birthday of Mary, who brought the dawn of hope and salvation to the world. She is the true Ark of the Covenant, the temple of God, because her body received the one Mediator.

**SAINTS THIS WEEK**

**St Gregory The Great, 540-604.** A Roman noble who was Perfect of the City before becoming a monk.As Pope he established a pattern for the papacy in years to come. He sent missions to Lombardy, Sardinia and England. Patron of musicians.

**St Oengus Mac Nissi** took his name from his mother, Cnes or Ness, It is claimed that Patrick baptised him and taught him the Psalms. He choose thre district of Conor for his hermitage, but later became bishop od his clan. He died early in the sixth century.

**HELEN COSGROVE (NEE OVENS)**

Sean Cosgrove and Family 72 Castlepark, Ballincollig, Co Cork wish to extend sincere thanks to all those who sympatised and supported them in their recent Bereavement. Including the staff of Cork University Hospital, The Priests of the parish, Bishop John Buckley, St Mary and St John's Choir, Barry's Undertakers, Glanmire, Crowley's Funeral Home, Ballincollig and all relatives, neighbours and friends who sent cards and flowers.

The Holy Sacrifice of the mass  
 will be offered for your intentions

ST. MARY & ST. JOHN	EACH SUNDAY	CHRIST OUR LIGHT
<p><b>Masses</b></p> <p>Sunday: 8.30, 10.00, 12.00                      Mon-Thur: 9.30am                      Fri: 9.30am, 8.00pm                      Saturday: 10.00, 6pm                      (Vigil)</p>	<p><b>ROSARY RECITED                      AT BOTH CHURCHES                      EACH SUNDAY                      3.00P.M.</b></p> <p><i>Everyone most welcome</i></p>	<p><b>Masses</b></p> <p>Sunday: 11.00, 12.30, 5.30pm                      Mon-Thur: 8.30am                      Fri: 8.30am, 6.30pm                      Saturday: 10.00am, 8.00pm                      (Vigil)</p>
<p><b>Confessions</b></p> <p>Saturday: after 10am Mass                      before 6pm Mass</p>	<p>FRIDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2001                      (First Friday)  <b>EXPOSITION OF THE                      BLESSED SACRAMENT</b>  <i>Church of St. Mary &amp; St.                      John</i></p> <p><i>Following 9.30a.m. Mass                      Concluding with Rosary &amp;                      Benediction at 7.40p.m.                      &amp; Mass 8.00p.m.</i></p>	<p><b>Confessions</b></p> <p>Saturday: after 10am Mass</p>
<p><b>Baptisms</b></p> <p>Saturday: 5.00pm                      Sunday: 12.45pm</p>		<p><b>Baptisms</b></p> <p>Saturday: 7.15pm</p>

**PARISH CLERGY**

CHURCH NO. ☎ 087-2479140  
 Fr. L.O'Brien P.P ☎ 021-4871206  
 Fr. P. O'Donovan C.C. ☎ 021-4872808 Fax: 021-4872808  
 Fr. Paul O'Donoghue ☎ 021-4876055

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 But Often Fail to Plan !!

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“Day by Day with Mary”

# Novena

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Fr Eugene Clarkson MSC

SACRED HEART CHURCH

Western Road, Cork

**31st Aug-8th Sept**  
**10.00am & 8.00pm daily**

All Welcome

## C.I.E. (STAFF)

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK

SUNDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER, 2001

COACH DEPARTS FROM BALLINCOLLIG  
 06.30 HOURS

### FULL IRISH BREAKFAST

IN WEST COUNTY HOTEL

ENNIS, CO. CLARE

ARRIVE IN KNOCK APPROX.

12.30P.M.

### EVENING DINNER

IN WEST COUNTY HOTEL

ENNIS, CO. CLARE

ALL IN COST £27.00

Bookings with:

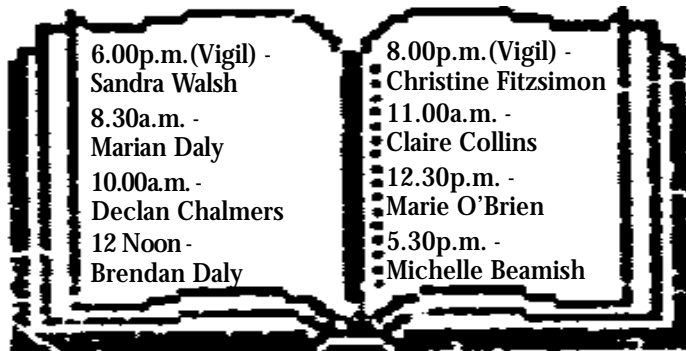
Betty Sheehan Phone: 021-4873579  
 John C.Hennessy Phone: 021-4506976

SOCIETY OF  
 ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
 Monthly Collection  
 This Weekend 1st & 2nd  
 September 2001  
 PLEASE SUPPORT

**Next Sundays Readings: Wis. 9:13-19. Ps.89.**  
**Philem. 9-10,12-17.Lk. 14:25-33.**  
 None of you can be my disciple unless he gives  
 up all his possessions.

## MINISTERS OF THE WORD SEP 8TH/9TH

ST. MARY & ST. JOHN CHRIST OUR LIGHT



## MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

8th /9th September 2001

ST. MARY'S & ST. JOHN'S CHURCH



**SATURDAY 8TH**  
 6p.m.  
 Helen Kelly  
 April Ryan  
 Eileen Murphy  
 Ted Nelligan  
 Angela Murphy  
 Ann O'Connell

**SUNDAY 9TH**  
 8.30a.m.  
 Mary Buckley  
 Josie Halligan

10a.m.  
 Miriam Maunsell  
 Mary McLean  
 Breda Ring  
 Jerry O'Connor

12.00 Noon  
 Louie O'Leary  
 Mary Buckley  
 Will Casey  
 Rose Doyle  
 Anne O'Sullivan  
 Ellen O'Sullivan

## CHRIST OUR LIGHT CHURCH

**SATURDAY 8TH**  
 8p.m.  
 Maire Ui Crualaoi  
 Marion O'Sullivan  
 Anne O'Connell

**SUNDAY 9TH**  
 11a.m.  
 Seamus O'Connell  
 Mary O'Connell  
 Finbarr Murray  
 Alan O'Riordan

12.30p.m.  
 Eileen O'Donoghue  
 Jackie Sheehan  
 Anne Burke  
 Mary Green  
 Michael O'Leary

5.30p.m.  
 Catherine Green  
 Mary Breen  
 Siobhan Burke

**BALLINCOLLIG BASKETBALL CLUB**

**NOTES AND FIXTURES**

As the summer holidays draw to a close, all training will revert back to Autumn/Winter times from Sep 3rd. Full training times will be issued in next weeks publications so please watch for your relevant session or contact your coach if in any doubt.

The League games start off on Sat 1st of September with Ballincollig men's un 19 facing Glanmire here in Ballincollig Community School at 4.00pm and our Div. 2 mens team playing Neptune at 5.30pm

**UPCOMING FIXTURES**

Friday 7th - Parochial Hall  
7.00pm - Iona v Ballincollig Un-19

Saturday 8th - Parochial Hall  
- Un-19 Pre-season Tournament  
9.00am - Ballincollig v Spitfires Pool A  
1.00pm - Ballincollig v Blue Demons A  
3.00pm - St Colms v Ballincollig  
5.00pm - Iona v Ballincollig

**TRAINING TIMES 2001-2002**

Beginning Monday 3rd September in Ballincollig Community School Gym

Mondays: 6.00 - 7.30pm U15 Boys\*  
7.30 - 8.30pm Intermediate Ladies\*  
8.30 - 10.00pm U17 Boys

Fridays: 6.00 - 7.00pm U11 Boys  
7.00 - 8.00pm U15 U16 Girls  
8.00 - 9.00pm U14 Girls

\* (On Mondays U15 Boys and Intermediate Ladies will alternate times: U15 Boys - 6.00 to 7.30pm or 7.00pm Intermediate Ladies from 7.30 or 7.00 to 8.30pm. U15 Boys will begin the rota on the first Monday, 3 September from 6.00 - 7.30pm.)

Saturdays: 10.00 - 11.00am Nursery/Beginners Boys  
11.00 - 12.00 Nursery/Beginners Girls  
12.00 - 1.00pm U12 Girls

Tuesdays: 6.00 - 7.00pm U13Boys

Sundays: 11.00 - 12.00 U18 Girls  
12.00 - 1.00pm Junior Ladies (U19)

Wednesdays: 6.00 - 7.00pm U19 Boys

Training time for Division 2 Mens team has yet to be decided.

Home matches will be played on Saturday afternoons: First and Third Saturdays of each month for Boys matches, Second and Fourth Saturdays for Girls matches. All match times (home and away) will be published each week in local newsletters.

A Coaches Seminar will be held in Ballincollig Community School Gym, on Sunday, September 2nd between 12 noon and 2pm. All coaches are requested to attend.

**UPCOMING FIXTURES - MENS**

Saturday 15th Sep - Parochial Hall  
Div. 2 Pre-season Tournament  
10.00 am Ballincollig v Fr Mathews  
12.00pm Ballincollig v Shamrocks  
2.00pm Ballincollig v Banteer

Saturday 15th Sep - Ballincollig Comm. School  
5.30pm Ballincollig v Blue Demons U19  
Thursday 20th Sep - Neptune Stadium  
7.00pm Neptune v Ballincollig U19

**SPECIAL DAY OF PRAYER  
IN KNOCK**

FOR THE POPE, THE CHURCH AND FOR OUR FAMILIES  
WHICH ARE UNDER ATTACK IN THESE TIMES.

Saturday 6th, Oct. 2001.  
(Eve of Our Lady of The Rosary Day)



Please Fulfill Our blessed Mother's requests and join together in prayer on this day for peace and for Our Holy Father the Pope who is leading us in these difficult times.

Commencing at 2.15 p.m. with Stations of the Cross followed by Rosary procession and Mass at 3.00 p.m.

Come: O Holy Spirit and fill the Hearts of the Faithful

Chief Celebrant:  
**Rev. Patrick Dwyer.**  
the well known Family Tree  
Reading priest

Please help Our Lady and become a member of Her apostolate of the Rosary by copying, distributing and displaying this poster in prominent places throughout your area.

Organize a group from your area to come to Knock on this important day of prayer.



My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge.  
- My God, I believe, I adore, I trust and I love Thee: I beg pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not trust and do not love Thee.

Prayer taught by the Blessed Virgin Mary to the children of Ephraim.

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Classes commence week beginning  
10th September 2001

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E-mail: alzheimercork@eircom.net



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**FR JOHN O'DONOVAN**

We welcome Fr John O'Donovan to the Parish. Fr John, who is a native of Skibbereen, joins us after a period in Austrailia. We wish him well in his new ministry.

**YMCA STEP TRAINING OPPURTUNITY**

A new YMCA STEP course for 17-25s without Leaving Certificate has just begun in Ballincollig YMCA, 2B, Rosewood. This computer based course will run until December 21st offering modules in Communications, Personal Effectiveness, Work Orientation with a 4 week work placement and full Computer training for the ECDL certificate.

To find out more call 021-4877770 and ask for Helen or David

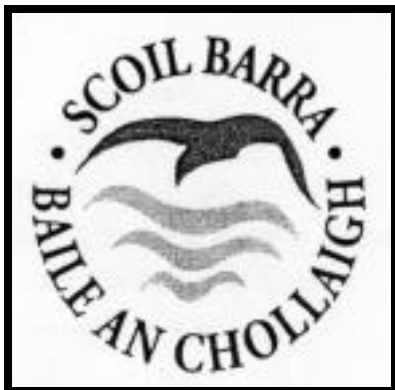
*For Information on:*

- PREMARRIAGE COURSES
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- NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING
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***Contact N.A.O.M.I.***

36, Washington St., Cork.  
Tel: 021-4272213  
(Tues-Fri Office Hours)

**School Re-opens on**



**Tuesday 4th September:**

- 9.00am 5th and 6th classes
- 9.30am 3rd and 4th classes
- 10.00am Senior infants, 1st & 2nd class
- 11.00am Pupils who are new to the school and going into classes other than Junior infants

**Wednesday 5th September:**

- 10.00am New Junior Infants

## NIGHT PRAYER

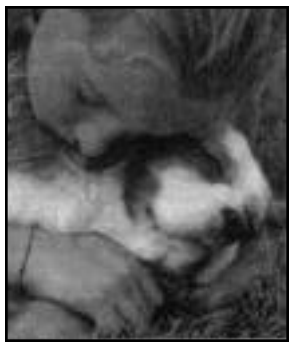
*Now I am going to sleep and if this sleep  
be for me the sleep of death then  
may your own mighty hand lead me  
from the light of this world into  
the great light of eternity.*

Our night prayers are our final conversation of the day with God, and this lovely old prayer from the Scottish Gaelic is a wonderful example of the spirit that should permeate our night prayer. This little prayer touches on so much of Christian faith and hope. It is a solemn but confident handing over of ourselves to God's loving care; it is a calm acknowledgement that we are pilgrims on this earth and that day by day, night by night, our heavenly Father is leading us to himself and to our heavenly home. Such an approach can help make our night prayer a richer experience. Many of us may have been encouraged or even dragooned, in our earliest years - 'Say your night prayers' before going to bed. What did that mean for us? Perhaps it was a quick act of contrition for anything we had done wrong in the day. Now, an examination of conscience and an act of contrition at the end of the day are excellent practices, and I hope we are doing this and leading our children to do likewise. However, our night prayer is not to consist of these acts only - it is, like all our prayers, to be centred on God and his grace. It reaches out to God in gratitude, contrition, trust, hope and petition. We need not focus straight away on our failures, rather try and see how God was with us during the day, what God was doing with us and for us, and how we responded. Then we can thank God for his grace at work in us and ask pardon for our failures. Finally, we can ask God for the blessings of his protection and a good night's rest - no small matter in our stressful world.

*A suggested structure for night prayers:*

- (1) If possible find a quiet place. Let your mind and heart grow still. Put yourself in God's presence.
- (2) Think about the day that is ending. How was God with me today, how did God help me? Or did I feel abandoned by God? How did God speak to me or challenge me through events? How did I respond?
- (3) Give thanks to God for his grace at work in us. Ask pardon for sins and failures.
- (4) Entrust yourself and all those you love to God's protection and ask for yourself and for the the blessings of a peaceful night and restoring sleep.
- (5) Finish with a prayer to Mary, our heavenly Mother.

## ACCEPTANCE



Sometimes our social position or status in life is hard to accept. Perhaps in our youth we nurtured lofty ambitions and aspired to higher things but sadly, it was not to be. We probably realised somewhere along the way that we would never be brain surgeons or rocket scientists or perhaps candidates for the Nobel Prize, that we would never win an Oscar or an Emmy, never get around to writing that novel or poem. It may be difficult for us to accept that we will never win the admiration of our colleagues or the adulation of others. But do we have to resent our position in life? Do we have to nourish a personal resentment against the world? Our happiness in life depends on our attitude and acceptance of our individual roles, how we perceive ourselves, how we conduct our daily lives, the moral and spiritual standards that we live by and the example that we show to others. It is worth remembering that the way we act and behave does influence those around us and also that we are influenced by others' behaviour. Thus it may be worthwhile to contemplate on our position in life and how we behave towards our fellowman, to take stock of our personal situation and perhaps admit that we are not perfect, that we cannot control anyone else's actions except our own. We may realise that any change that needs to be initiated should start with ourselves, for it is only by trying to change our own lives, by striving to be a good example to others, that we can demonstrate that it is possible to achieve in this life a peaceful spirit, a gentle heart, and an open mind, by praying that we will receive the grace to gain that elusive element, acceptance.

*E. Chandler*

## THE GREATEST EVIL IN THE WORLD

*"Many today are starving for ordinary bread. But there is another kind of hunger - the hunger to be wanted, to be loved, to be recognised. Nakedness too is not just the want of clothes, but also about a loss of dignity, purity and self-respect. And homelessness is not just want of a house: there is the homelessness of being rejected, of being unwanted in a throwaway society. The biggest disease in the world today is the feeling of being unwanted and uncared for. The greatest evil in the world today is lack of love, the terrible indifference towards one's neighbour."*

**Mother Teresa**

